

Amendments to the Claims

1. – 28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) A method for a mobile data device to determine a network to acquire based on a plurality of ~~system~~-preference criteria provided in a preferred roaming list on said mobile data device, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. waiting until a new network needs to be acquired;
- b. choosing the network to acquire at said mobile data device based on said plurality of ~~system~~-preference criteria stored on said mobile device, the preference criteria including a list of service features the mobile data device supports; and
- c. starting a search for the new network<sub>i</sub>.

wherein the mobile data device gives preference to various ones of the plurality of ~~system~~-preference criteria to create the ranking of available networks.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said plurality of ~~system~~-preference criteria includes at least geographic information and data capability information.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the plurality of ~~system~~-preference criteria further includes information about whether each of the available networks support data roaming for the mobile data device.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the plurality of ~~system~~-preference criteria further includes whether each of the available networks supports mobile IP.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the plurality of ~~system-preference~~ criteria further includes whether each of the available networks supports an always-on device.
34. (canceled)
35. (currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein ~~the mobile data device further stores a list of service features the mobile data device supports and said plurality of system-preference~~ criteria further includes a list of services the network supports.
36. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said choosing step can find no networks are available.
37. (currently amended) A mobile data device for acquiring one of a plurality of networks based on a plurality of ~~system-preference~~ criteria provided in a preferred roaming list on said mobile data device, characterized by means for:
- a. waiting until a new network needs to be acquired;
  - b. choosing the network to acquire at said mobile data device based on said plurality of ~~system-preference~~ criteria stored on said mobile device, the preference criteria including a list of service features the mobile data device supports; and
  - c. starting a search for the new network<sub>1</sub>,
- wherein the mobile data device gives preference to various ones of the plurality of criteria to create the ranking of available networks.
38. (currently amended) The mobile device of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ~~system-preference~~ criteria includes at least geographic information and data capability information.

39. (currently amended) The mobile data device of claim 38, wherein the plurality of ~~system~~-preference criteria further includes information about whether each of the available networks support data roaming for the mobile data device.
40. (currently amended) The mobile data device of claim 38, wherein the plurality of ~~system~~-preference criteria further includes whether each of the available networks supports mobile IP.
41. (currently amended) The mobile data device of claim 38, wherein the plurality of ~~system~~-preference criteria further includes whether each of the available networks supports an always-on device.
42. (canceled)
43. (currently amended) The mobile data device of claim 38, wherein ~~the mobile data device further includes means for storing a list of service features the mobile data device supports and~~ said plurality of ~~system~~ preference criteria further includes a list of services the network supports.
44. (currently amended) The mobile data device of claim 38, wherein the mobile data device includes means for storing said plurality of ~~system~~ preference criteria in a table with said available networks.